

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are rejected on new grounds of rejection all of which are based on Takahashi et al. (USP 6,436,538) as either the primary reference or as a secondary reference in combination with Nishino et al. (USP 5,680,184). Takahashi is applied as anticipating claims 1-9, 17 and 18; and also as rendering obvious claims 10-14 in combination with Nishino et al., in each case for its disclosure of the effect of luster pigments that are reflective flat particles and possess superior optical properties etc.

In order to advance the prosecution of the present application, applicants have decided to rely on their priority claim under 35 USC 119 to predate the Takahashi et al. U.S. patent as a reference. It is noted that Takahashi et al. has a filing date in the United States of August 13, 1999. The present application has a Japanese priority claim of July 6, 1999 based on Japanese Patent Application No. 191814/1999. The July 6, 1999 priority date of the present application also predates any

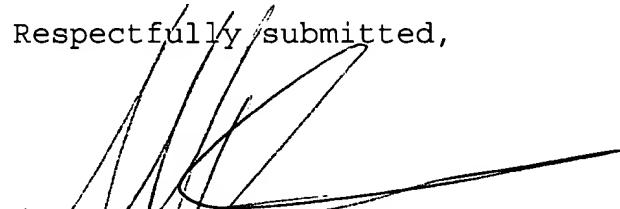
Appl. No. 09/610,033
Reply to Office Action of December 11, 2003

18-month publication of the EP application noted on the Takahashi et al. U.S. patent with respect to a foreign priority claim. In order to perfect the priority claim, there is enclosed herewith a sworn translation of the priority application JP 191814/1999. A certified copy of the priority document was filed with the present application on July 5, 2000.

Considering the enclosed translation, support for the present claims can be found throughout and especially at pages 1 and 2; and pages 7-10. Also noted is the discussion of the aspect ratio and its importance, near the end of page 24 and on page 25.

Allowance of this application is, therefore, respectfully requested.

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Enc. Sworn English Language Translation of Priority Document
No. JP 191814/1999